Merit of SOST students 100% Central Assistance to States/UTs is provided for arranging remedial and special coaching for SOST students studying in class IX to XII.

(c) No proposal was received from Government of Gujarat in respect of this scheme during 1995-96 & 1996-97. Central Assistance amounting to Rs. 2,82,500/- was given for the benefit of 30 students during 1997-98.

(d) In order to make the Scheme more popular in all the States including Gujarat, the Ministry has revised the scheme and the State Governments are being requested to give maximum publicity to this Scheme.

Enacting Law to help Mentally III Women

2224. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item appeared in Times of India (ND), dated the 30th May, 1998 under the caption "Enact law to help mentally-ill women: NCW" wherein it has been stated :hat National Commission for Women is of opinion that a Central law should be enacted making it mandatory for husbands, fathers, brothers and sons to look after the women of their families who are mentally ill and are driven to mental asylums or destitute homes;

(b) if so, what is the number of such women in mental asylums and destitute homes in the country as on 30.06.98; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to bring forward a bill in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Data regarding women in mental asylums and destitute homes is being collected.

(c) There is no proposal to bring a bill on this subject.

Programmes for the Welfare of SCsSTs, etc.

2225. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the details there of schemes and programmes formulated by Government for the welfare of SCs, STs, Backward Classes, Minorities, Child Labour, destitute women etc. in all the States particularly in the State of Assam during the last five years;

(b) the achievements made so far year-wise/State-wise; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Implementation of various Welfare Schemes

2226. DR. JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently reviewed various welfare schemes introduced for the upliftment of the poors;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether these schemes are being implemented properly;

(d) if not, the reasons therefore; and

(e) the steps takeivproposed to be taken by Government in this regard?